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Adventures out East
Road trip memories
on page 5

Bowl-ing for a cause
Haliburton's annual soup celebration
on page 10

Lazy hazy season
Photos from Rotary events over the summer
on page 12

Melissa Alfano, left, paints the face of Kakashi Schofield at a past Minden Pride Street Fest. This year's local Pride week is set for Aug. 18 to 24. /FILE

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Katie Woodward has dedicated herself to raising money for kids' cancer treatments by riding her bike whenever she can. /submitted

Cycling for a cause; how one local found her 'why'

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

We all have our 'why'.

That purpose that drives us, that inspires us, that fuels us to keep going, to push ourselves harder, to keep moving forward.

For Haliburton County resident Katie Woodward, her 'why' is a little girl named Leah.

In 2023, just four days before Christmas, Leah and her family received a life-changing cancer diagnosis.

"I can't imagine that kind of news," said Woodward. And Leah was not the only one. Every year, 1,700 kids are diagnosed with cancer in Canada. "I needed to find a way to help," recalled Woodward.

Woodward has always been active. Her first love was for training horses, but once that chapter of her life closed, she turned to the trails, in a very different way. "I was looking for something to fill that gap," she said. "And we're very fortunate with our scenery here."

Once she started biking, there was no turning back. With a natural need for speed that had developed from years of skiing, Woodward found her passion in cycling. "I've been cycling for quite a while now," she chuckled. "But I thought that if I am doing it anyway, I should find a way to help others."

That's when she discovered the Great Cycle Challenge, a Canadian initiative through SickKids to fight kids' cancer.

For her first year, Woodward wasn't sure where to start, so she set a goal of riding 200 kilometres and raising $500. "It wasn't long before I surpassed that goal," laughed Woodward. "Our community is such a generous, supportive group."

That first year, she rode over 600 kilometres, and raised over $6,000.

Four years strong, she has now ridden 2147 kilometres, and raised $30,778 to allow the SickKids Foundation to continue their work in developing treatments, and actively finding a cure for childhood cancer. Woodward ranks seventh in Ontario for the Great Cycle Challenge, and tenth nationally.

In her second year of riding, while her purpose and mission felt strong, it became that much stronger when she met Leah. "She absolutely touched my heart," said Woodward. And now, thanks to the funds raised by Woodward on her journey, Leah has now been cancer-free for the past 13 months. "Our community is absolutely awesome," reflected Woodward. "I am so grateful for how they support the cause."

Woodward will be continuing her rides over the course of the month. To support her cause, visit www.greatcyclechallenge.ca/riders/katiewoodward.

CountyLife
The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

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Ingrates

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

LAST WEEK, while fly fishing, I caught a smallmouth bass that clearly wasn't having a good day. When I landed it, the fly I had fooled it with was lodged in the corner of its mouth. As if that were not bad enough, it appeared as if another angler had hooked the fish before I did. There was a brand-new bait hook, with a very lively dew worm still attached, right beside my fly.

In hindsight, I suppose the worm wasn't having a good day either.

Fortunately for fish and worm, their luck was about to change. You see, I immediately removed the hook and worm from the fish's mouth. Then, I extracted the fly. After that, I released the fish. Lastly, I slid the worm off the hook and released it too.

I won't lie. I seriously considered keeping the worm. They go for 50 cents apiece these days, and even though this one was only slightly used, I figure it would have still fetched at least 35 cents at any pawn shop in the GTA.

But then I got to thinking that the interaction with the pawn shop owner wouldn't go as smoothly as I hoped. They'd probably want to know where I got the worm. Then I'd have to reveal a fishing spot. That's why I set the worm free instead.

I won't lie. I had another motive for being kind to fish and worm too.

You see, as I was unhooking them, I could not help but think of an old fable I was told as a kid. In that tale, a lion was suffering because it had a thorn in its paw. So, it approached some dim-witted shepherd and asked for help. But, instead of doing the sensible thing and running for his life, the shepherd obliged and removed the thorn from the lion's paw. Later, according to the rendition I was told as a kid, the shepherd found himself in a dire circumstance and the lion saved his life.

It still seems plausible.

That's why, as I was releasing the bass, I thought that maybe one day it might return the favour.

I know it›s crazy, but I envisioned fishing on that very body of water. Then, after seeing I was in the process of losing yet another fishing bet, that fish, now much bigger, would fondly remember the kindness I had bestowed upon it and deliberately allow me to hook and land it, knowing full well that I'd let it go. It would have been a remarkable gesture of gratitude.

I'd win the bet. The fish and I would be even. All would be right in this world.

Heck, in my mind, the fish and I would become fast friends and do this every year.

But, alas, life doesn't work that way.

Shortly afterwards, I read the fable and found out that the story I was told was incorrect. In the original story, it turns out that the next time the shepherd meets the lion, it remembers him, acknowledges the kindness he gave it, and even convinces his fellow lions not to eat the young man. Then, in an appalling act of ingratitude, the lion kills and eats the shepherd himself.

Evidently, the moral of the story is that kindness is not always rewarded.

And that, more than anything, is why I lost my fishing bet yesterday …

What's your story?

TERESA JORDAN
Community Living Contemplations

I HAVE BEEN working on transcribing some old cassette tapes from the 80s that were interviews with elderly citizens of my neighbourhood about local history. I have found myself lost in their tales of survival and the "olden days." One 96-year-old in 1985 described a fire in his home during a lightning storm, and because of the storm, the phone lines were crackling so the operator went home. As a result, there was no way to put the call through the party line to call all the neighbours to aid.

It makes these people who have now all passed, come to life, I can hear their voices and their stories. In lots of cultures, story telling was an art and the good storyteller was a high-ranking part of the clan or neighbourhood. It is in storytelling that we keep the past in mind, keep legacies going, and remind ourselves of all the challenges that were overcome before us.

I think everyone has some stories, I am sure that this person being interviewed just thought he was a person living life, and now all these years later I am entertained and intrigued to learn about his school days, farming and triumphs. He speaks a lot about the community, the churches, the gatherings, the school events and fairs. It is a different time, when a small community cropped up every few miles centered around a church and a school. He speaks of the reliance on neighbours in hard times.

These stories remind me of the power of community where we all belong and look out for one another. There is such a rich heritage in Haliburton County, and Community Living has been part of it for a long time. Recently, we sadly had a funeral, but there we got to reminisce about the impact of peoples' lives that moved here in the 80s from institutions and what being part of the Haliburton community has meant for them and for all of us.

We shared many stories of connection and hijinks over the many years. Sometimes there is a great story about individual triumphs or hard work that led to great success. However, often not far under the surface, our stories are possible because of a little help from our friends all along the way. We each have a collection of stories, and know some family history tall tales. Let's make sure we share them and keep all that high adventure and long-gone loved ones alive. Tell your story.

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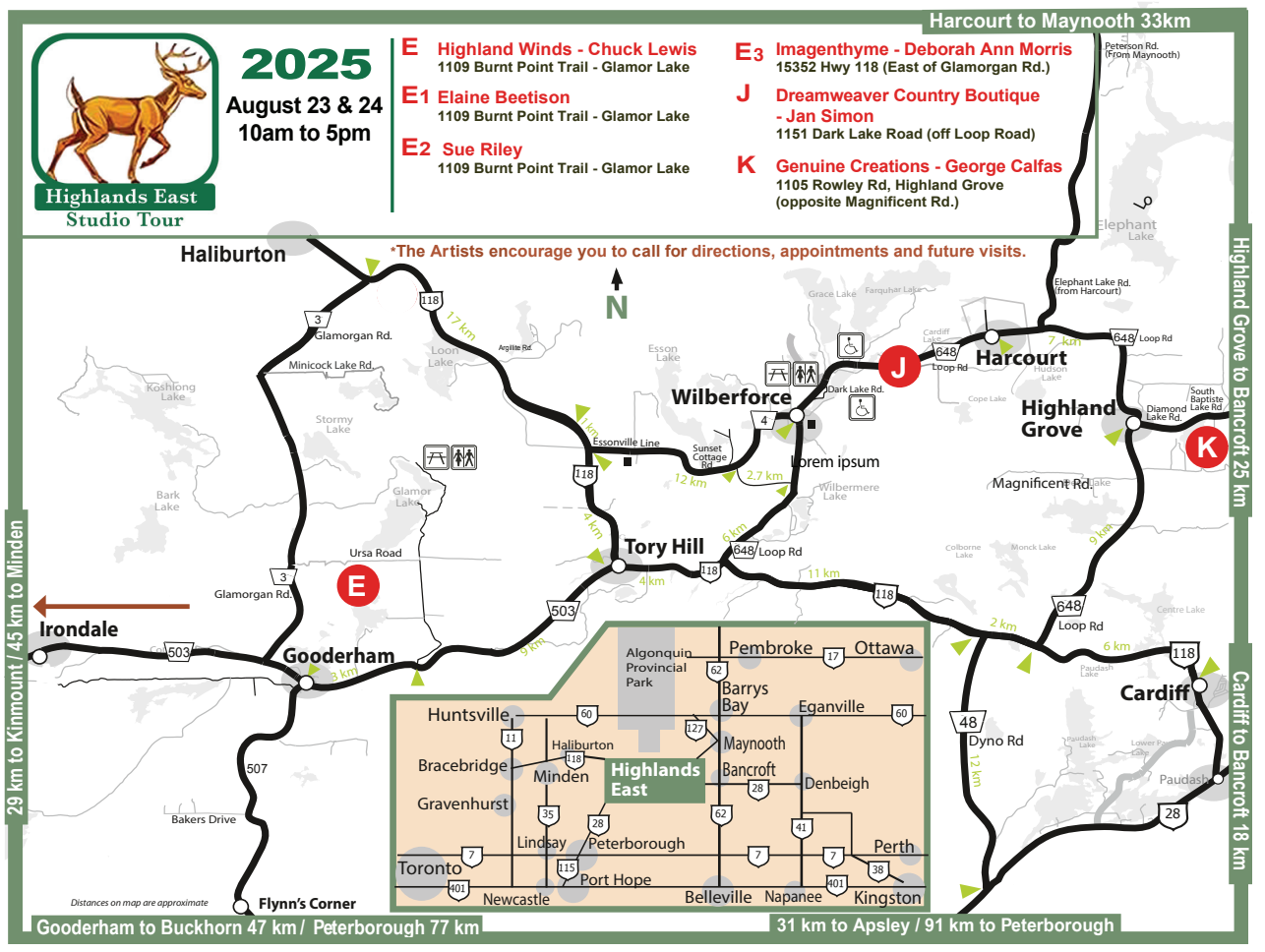

Writing on the Senior Side

Back on the midway

GAIL STELTER
County Life Contributor

I'm back on the Midway! Someone up ahead is laughing. A baby is crying over there. I look to the side; the talking is so loud over there. Is that couple arguing? That whole family is laughing. Has there always been all these people, all these sounds?

It's not the Midway at the EX, but I feel like I am fifteen again on a break from my job at Christine's Bun Bar, walking down the Midway. No, it's certainly not the EX. I am walking through the checkout area of Costco, and I can hear everything. The audiologist warned me that it would be loud, but this is more than loud; these are the sounds of life I didn't know I was missing, and I am grinning and laughing. It's the Midway of Life, and it's so amazing to be back. Wow, I love these hearing aids.

Peter is waiting in the car. As I get in, he says, "Can you hear me. How are they?"

"I am back. I can hear everything, and by the way, can you speak a little quieter? You're very loud." We both laugh. For the past several years, my mantra of "I'm sorry I can't hear you" has been a way of life for both of us.

They feel a little strange, but I manage and enjoy my new hearing world. However, I am just a tiny bit relieved to take them out at bedtime. I will get used to them.

Day two. The next morning, I put them back in. Again, it feels a little strange but not too bad. Ten minutes later, my hands are reaching towards my ears. These things are driving me crazy. I want them out of my ears right now! Whatever made me think I could have these things in my ears?

Wait, I hear the floors in our house squeak.
Peter, did you know these floors squeak and creak? Peter, did you hear the fly buzzing? Peter, can you hear the bird singing?" I knew I had hearing loss, but I had no idea of all the sounds and joys of life I was completely missing.

Give up strolling the Midway of Life. Miss keywords and whole conversations. Go back to hating drives in the car because the background road noise is unbearable. Turn down invitations to attend special events because the background noise will ruin it anyway. Go back to being fed up, telling people I can't hear them, to the point that I want to just sit and ignore them. NO. I will not go back there. It will just take time to get used to having them in my ears. I can do this.

Day three. The test. "Be careful, kids, Gramma can hear everything you're saying." Family time with nine of us at our home tonight on the back patio for dinner, after a great summer day on the boats, swimming and tubing. Soon, we are all telling stories, and I can hear and join in. This is wonderful, a definite new addition to my ice cream summer.

There is nothing better than listening to your grandchildren and sharing and laughing and singing, and dancing with them. The Stelter Family Cottage week at Willow Beach Cottages will be a whole new Midway, and I can't wait. I will be able to hear all of us talking at the same time, 'cause that's what we do.

Day five. Perhaps I should read the instruction booklet. The first booklet is about the charger: easy peasy lemon squeezy. The audiologist did an excellent job of explaining this. The next booklet is all the remaining information about wearing, cleaning, and changing the tulip dome and filters. There is a lot of rigamarole that my senior side doesn't like. Back on the Midway of Life should not come with all this rigamarole. To be fair, the audiologist explained all this too, but the booklet sure helps. Seems rigamarole is unescapable. I'm staying on the Midway.

It strikes me as sad that some senior siders express a reluctance to wear hearing aids due to the stigma of being perceived as old or incompetent. I don't care what people think; living on the senior side is the freedom from such thought, such stigma. What is important are the benefits I am already enjoying:

Better communication and connection with loved ones

Greater participation in social activities

Enhanced emotional stability and well-being.

Here are the benefits I am anticipating:

Boosted Cognitive Function: Hearing aids can improve memory and brain function, potentially decreasing the risk of dementia and cognitive decline.

Improved Balance and Safety: Amplified sound enhances spatial awareness, reducing the risk of falls by freeing up cognitive resources needed for balance.

Am I used to wearing them now? No, but it is getting easier, and as you can see, the benefits are greater than the alternative. My time left to enjoy the Midway of Life is unknown. Tomorrow is not promised. I am determined to grab the Midway fum, and I am sorry that I waited so long to finally stroll.

So, if you find yourself frustrated or even just mildly annoyed to have to keep saying, "I'm sorry I can't hear you," go for the hearing test. You, too, may discover the thrill of being back on the Midway of Life!

***

Publishing my book: an update. The nitty-gritty of the next steps is overshadowing the joy of selecting a publisher and sending my manuscript. Number one disaster: choosing pictures and uploading them to the publisher's "file manager." Hours deciding which pictures, cropping and organizing and into the file manager they went. I messed it up. All wrong. The order has to match the order of placement in the manuscript. There is a very specific way that each one has to be named, tagged and given a caption in the correct pace. I didn't know this. Did they assume I would? I was somewhat annoyed but also upset. A few tears later, I decided to leave it until after our family cottage week. My self-imposed deadlines are not working. This is not my Midway Life. Writing is fun. Pictures are not fun. All I can say at this point is that there will not be any pictures in my next book!

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Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m., Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs)
Tuesday: Last Tuesday of the month-liver luncheon with one alternative 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed darts 7:30 p.m. Canteen opens at 6 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 p.m. Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) 3rd week at 2 p.m.
Special events: May 11 Mother's day breakfast $13.00/person
Friday night BBQ
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
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Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday: 2 to 10 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 6 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Mondays: Aug. 25 Darts $5/player 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Aug. 20, 27 Darts $4/player 2 p.m.
Aug. 20, 27 Quick Supper Menu changes weekly $10 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Aug. 28 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Aug. 21, 28 Horseshoes $5/player 7 p.m.
Fridays: Aug. 29 Wings and Jam Session $15/lb 5 to 8 p.m.
Aug. 22 Community Care 55+ Lunch $17, noon
Aug. 22 Fish and Chips 1pc/$15, 2pc/$20
Saturdays: Aug. 30 Board Games 2 p.m.
Aug. 23, 30 Meat Draw 3 p.m.
Aug. 23 Ladies Auxiliary Appreciation Day 2 to 6 p.m.
Aug. 23 Karaoke 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
August 30 Trivia Night 7 p.m.
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

/photos submitted

The red island

I'M WRITING From a weathered deck four-minute's walk to an empty beach on north shore PEI, and just east of the protected Greenwich Dunes. My youngest child, now nearing forty, once called this favourite holiday destination 'PDI', and in her toddler format, with wide-open wonder and fresh-air energy, she'd prance about, picking berries and wildflowers for her beloved family. Older sister would then assemble a cottage 'restaurant', complete with hand-drawn 'menus' and vase of buttercups and Queen Anne's Lace. 'Chefington's' offered the elite diner several creative variations on a blueberry.

I still find myself calling this province PDI, where every visitor seems to gush in Public Displays of Inspiration. Anyone else who appreciates the red-haired best-known character of Lucy Maud Montgomery would also acknowledge the stunning reddish rock here (due to iron oxide), plus endless emerald fields of potatoes which are flowering by midsummer, and whose harvest features largely on both local and tourist dinner plates. The legendary Anne of Green Gables, invented by Montgomery in 1908, represents the blithe spirit in many of us, and in her own author. We're passionate about words, notions and the exquisite vistas of this humble little sandstone island. Although Montgomery set almost every story in PEI, her birthplace, she lived mostly in Ontario, and died in Toronto. She's buried with her husband, Rev. Ewen MacDonald, in Cavendish, just west of these very dunes.

DEB REED

Wind in the Attic

I've been here many times, first with family, then with friends, and now, a second return with my partner. She's always struck by the colours here, which match her preference for acrylics straight-from-the-tube. I blend my own paints more, but clearly understand why masters like Gaugin and Van Gogh thrived better on rural blues, greens, reds and yellows.

Like others who can't help but look at life through rainbow-tinted sunglasses, Vincent, Anne, Reverends, writers, chefs, kids, flower-collectors, berry-pickers, and national explorers all seem to retain a modicum of childhood in their 'grownup' outlooks. We encountered a lone cyclist this morning at the shaded junction where our driveway meets the dusty red road. It runs due north between wind-sculpted thickets and a vast soybean field to the indigo sea. It's calm most mornings, so we were en route to kayak in a tidal river where kingfishers and a juvenile bald eagle both surveyed the brackish waters for brunch. The cyclist was plucking blackberries off loaded bushes, and when we paused our car to say hello, we learned that the Montrealer revisits this very spot every summer. He learned from us that Saskatoon berries grow nearby too. I'd forgotten the French word for 'berry', and when he replied 'baie', which also happens to mean 'bay', we joked that we were all renting cottages at St. Peter's Bay, and loved collecting 'baies'.

Coincidence aside, what struck me most was the moment. Our brief exchange of trust and respect felt instantly and definitively Canadian. We were all away from home provinces, and exalting over this one too. Thanks, dear Anne of Avonlea.

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Send your letters to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

County Life is produced by The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times, and published by White Pine Media Corp. Audited circulation: 6,372 July 1 - Dec 31, 2015

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Questions

WE'RE A busy family. We like it that way. Often dashing out the door around meal times to make sure we're not late for dance classes or piano lessons or play dates, a piece of pizza propped in our mouths while we balance sports equipment and strollers.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

But in the summer, time has a way of slowing down. Our days get longer, our to-do list, shorter.

And suddenly, we found we had time.

On the surface, this seems like a gift. And of course, it is. But the reality of the situation is that we weren't sure how to fill that time around the dinner table. No longer shoveling food in our mouths in an effort to get from Point A to Point B in a timely manner, we now had an excess of conversational opportunities.

And with two pre-teen girls and a baby, this isn't as easy as it sounds.

Wearing my other hat as the editor of the *Haliburton Echo* and the *Minden Times*, I pride myself on the ability to ask questions. It's the entirety of my job. Being able to read and write is secondary to the role of an editor; carrying no weight unless the right questions are asked in the process.

But as I sat at our oak table with the buttery sunlight dappling through the maples, I realized I had nothing to say.

"How was your day?"

"Good."

"What did you do?"

"Not much."

That was it. We sat in silence. And there is comfort in silence on occasion, but in the back of my mind, I was kicking myself for not asking the right questions. I have a brief window into their lives, why couldn't I see through the foggy glass?

I realized I needed back-up. I ended up finding a deck of question cards online. Fifteen dollars later and I was chuckling as I unwrapped the plastic box and placed it on the oak table. Maybe we use them, maybe we don't.

But like anything that is new and different, the girls gravitated to the box. And just like that, they started asking questions.

"Who is your personal hero?"

"Where would you turn if you were lost?"

"What was your worst experience at a hotel?"

"If there was one world problem you could fix, what would it be?"

Every single question asked has prompted insightful and meaningful dialogue. I've learned things about the kids, about my husband, and even about myself.

Asking questions can have that effect.

The other day, we were out for dinner, and that old familiar silence drifted its way into the conversation once again. "Oh no," I thought. "Are we going to have to travel with the question cards? Are they just as crucial as refilled water bottles and a fully stocked diaper bag?"

But then something happened. The eldest suggested we make our own questions.

And it wasn't just "how was your day?"

It was "Is it better to be right or be kind?"

It was "Would you forgive a cat if you saw it eat a bird, and you knew it was starving?"

It was "If you could go back to one chapter of your life, what would it be?"

Real questions, real conversation, real ideas.

And one day, these kids can carry their ability to ask questions into the world. To see people beyond what's on the surface, to dive down deeper into the meanings and murkiness of life.

And to answer one of their questions, I will look back on this chapter, the one where we had time, as one of the happiest of my life.

Top 10 social media abbreviations for older people

IF YOU are on the social media enough, and you are of a certain age, you tend to get confused by the abbreviations the younger people are using. For example, LOL means "laugh out loud" rather than "Loose old lowers," and TTYL means "Talk to you later" rather than "Take Tylenol young lady."

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

There are probably others too. The point is it's about time that we older people had abbreviations of our own – ones that are more appropriate to our situations. Here are my top 10 to start with.

1. WTBH: With two bad hips.
2. IGMH: It gives me heartburn.
3. HIF: High in fibre
4. CFMRG: Can't find my reading glasses.
5. GFG: Grandkids finally gone.
6. SDO: Sorry, dozed off.
7. FDP: Forgot darn password.
8. WIWAK: When I Was A Kid.
9. TBAP: Too big a portion.
10. MGWK: My grandson will know.

Interrupted

Wings, black as midnight Sky, speckled with smudges of tiny moons,
resting on the trail in the middle of the afternoon, its flutters, stuttering, then stilling, then starting up again,
the butterfly unable to lift up into Air, its wings, remaining grounded, splayed across the ground,
Sun beating down from a seamless blue Sky, my shadow hovers over the butterfly to shield it from the heat,
I crouch down to take a closer look, staring at the tear at the top of its left wing,
wondering how it got there, as the butterfly tries to flutter again,
its wings appearing as if they're gasping for Breath, beating slow as a fading Heart,
I graze the torn wing with the tip of my pinky, the butterfly's other three wings remain still
as the gravel on which it lies,
how soft, the wing feels, like the velvet petal of a flower, knowing there's no repairing the tear,
no flitting back up into Air again, to join its con-freres on their journey along the trail,
over bushes and ferns and blades of grass, maybe veering off their flight path
to explore the forests and fields that sprawl beyond it,
I graze the butterfly's other top wing, that reacts to my pinky touching it,
as if it's trying to flutter back up into Air again, wondering whether it feels the tear in its wing,
like I'd feel it in a muscle or a cut on my finger, hoping the butterfly doesn't feel any pain,
as I lift it up by its good wing and place it in the cup of my palm,
where its right wing flutters, and the torn one remains still,
as I carry the black butterfly with smudges of tiny moons on its wings, over toward the edge of the trail,
where it can rest in a nest of tall grass, in the shade, shielded from the scorch of Sun
by the overhanging branches of a bush, hidden from view from prying eyes like mine,
that came along and bothered the butterfly, transfixed by the beauty of its wings,
that were meant to carry it through the world without injury or fright,
its flight, interrupted, as it fluttered along the trail, exploring the flora and fauna of summer at its peak,
I wonder how much longer the butterfly will last, peering down at the nest of grass,
the faintest of flutters from its one good wing, the rest of it, still, as summer ripens all around it,
Sun blaring down from a seamless blue Sky, one less butterfly, beating its wings,
while another flutters across the trail, pale as the petals of daisies, wilting in the searing heat.

Sylvie Kalenda

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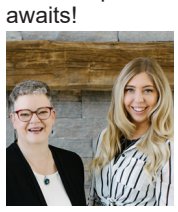

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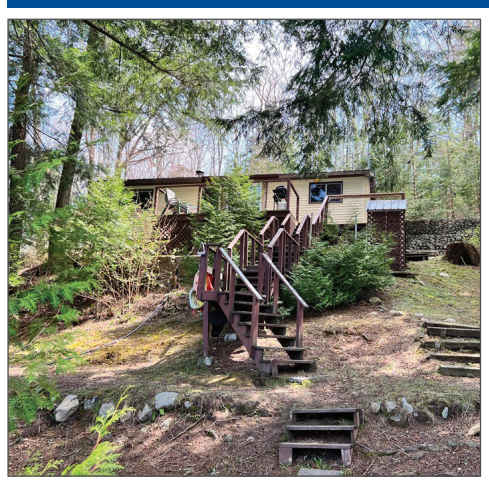

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Helping out, one bowl at a time

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

It's a cause that will unite a community: food insecurity.

Across the country, one in every four households is navigating the challenges of bringing food to the table; a premise that we know is prevalent right here in our own communities.

That's why SIRCH Community Services partnered up with the Haliburton Legion Branch 129 to try to make a dent in the struggles with an upcoming fall fundraiser.

"It's amazing to see," said Legion President Mike Waller. "Last year was fantastic. It was overwhelming to see how our community comes together."

Now in its second year, the Empty Bowls Fundraiser partners with local artists, restaurants, and musicians to raise money and awareness around food insecurity. Last year, the event completely sold out, with folks being turned away at the door due to capacity limits.

"So we've gone bigger this year," said Michelle Anton, a volunteer with SIRCH and a member of the local Legion. "We've organized two sittings this year."

The premise of the event is to offer handmade bowls by local potters to all attendees. Folks can pick their favourite bowl, and taste-test a variety of soups provided by local restaurants. At the end of the night, they can take the bowl home to add to their collection.

Legion President Mike Waller with artist Michelle Anton showcase bowls made by local potters for the upcoming soup fundriaser. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

With over 20 potters involved in the cause, there is a variety of styles, colours, shapes and sizes that attendees can choose from. "Everything has been donated," said Anton. "Including 60 gallons of soup."

Also on the roster for the evening are four great bands offering live music to add to the ambiance, as well as a silent auction to further garner fundraising efforts. "It's quite an event," said Waller.

The concept of the soup bowl fundraiser was started in the United States by a group of eager graduate students, looking to make a difference in their community. The idea snowballed across the continent, and has been practiced in neighbouring communities, such as Peterborough, for at least 25 years.

Locally, organizations have altered some semblance of the concept over the years, with the early events hosted at Haliburton School of Art and Design, but two years ago, the Legion took the lead as the hosts.

"It totally falls within our mandate of giving back," said Waller. "Anything we can do to help our community out, we will do it."

Anton, a potter herself and the secretary for the Legion, saw the combination of giving back under the umbrella of the organization as a perfect match. "I heard of the idea and said that I would like to take it on," she recalled, noting that she worked with fellow local potters to navigate the ins and outs of the evening, before fully committing to make it a popular event.

This year, the first sitting is set for 4 p.m., and the second will take place at 6:30 p.m., both on Sept. 20 at the Haliburton Legion. With nearly 50 volunteers participating to make the evening a success, Anton and Waller are eager to see how the event plays out, and are hopeful that they once again sell out. Proceeds from the event will go directly towards the Haliburton Food Bank and SIRCH Community Kitchen.

Tickets can be purchased at SIRCH or the Haliburton Legion, or through the Legion website.

"It truly amazes me to see what our community can do for those in need," said Waller. "The outpouring of love and compassion is just amazing."

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Baby loon and mama by Jill Moulton

Male fisher by Tammy Nash

Withered and worn beauty by Tammy Nash

Baby raccoon by Susan Coburn

Dragonfly by Rhonda LaMantia

Black Swallowtail by Randy Moratz

Lazy hazy days of summer

Haliburton Rotary held their annual Rotary Fest the first week of August, with cotton candy, ice cream, and of course, beef on a bun. ReMax provided their hot air balloon, with Zoo to You bringing unique creatures for kids to visit. The Drop Zone provided games for kids of all ages, and fun was had by all during the annual summer festival. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Magic in Minden

Minden Rotary hosted their annual Rotary Fest the first weekend of August, and despite sizzling temperatures, the event saw a large turn-out in the downtown core. With a vintage car show, live music, programs and games for kids of all ages, and lots of local deals, the event was a success for all. Below, musician Drew Allen performs at Minden Rotary Fest. /THOMAS SMITH staff

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Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Outpost Scrabble & Coffee
When: Wednesday August 20, 10:30 am
Where: Red Cross Outpost Historic House, 2314 Loop Rd, Wilberforce
Words used with a connection to the Outpost and its history win an extra 10 points. Contact: Barb Schofield, 705-448-2598, wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca

Old Times Afternoon Tea
When: Saturday Aug. 23, 1 to 4 p.m.
Where: Red Cross Outpost Historic House, 2314 Loop Rd, Wilberforce
Old fashioned tea and sweets, by donation. Bring a friend and make new ones. Contact: Barb Schofield, 705-448-2598, wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca

Haliburton Lions Stories in the Park Fun Fair
When: Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2025 Noon to 2 p.m.
Where: Head Lake Park, Haliburton
Individual, low-impact, non-competitive games such as Bean Bag Toss, Mini Putt, Basketball Toss, Ladder Toss, Fish Pond, and more! Free New Book for every child, Guessing Games, Photo Boards, Story Reading at "The Story Tree", Paint a Story, Free hot dogs, popcorn, juice boxes for all the children!

Recurring events

Friends of the HCPL Book Nook Hours
When: 1st, 3rd Tuesday of the month - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Branch, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
A variety of gently read books: thrillers, mysteries, romance, biographies, children and youth selections, Canadian authors, fiction, science fiction/fantasy, sports, spiritual and other non-fiction books. Bring a reusable bag. Payment is by cash donation. All money raised supports library enhancements and programmes for all libraries in the county.

Bridge for Seniors
When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room
All welcome.

Haliburton Legion Walking Group
When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Free Balanced Fitness, Active Social Senior Classes
When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Free Balanced Fitness, Active Social Senior Classes
When: Every second and fourth Tuesday - 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Haliburton Sculpture Forest Guided Walking Tours
When: Tuesdays in August, 10 a.m.
Where: 297 College Dr. Haliburton
Meet at the kiosk in the Fleming College - Haliburton School of Art + Design parking lot. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are held rain or shine and can take up to 2 hours. Tours are free but donations are greatly appreciated. Visit: www.haliburtonsculptureforest.ca

Bid Euchre
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall.
All welcome!

Seniors Chair Exercises
When: Thursdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain St.
Please join us for safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cards/Euchre/Cribbage
When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church, 617 Mountain St.

Lakeside Church Service
When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
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Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
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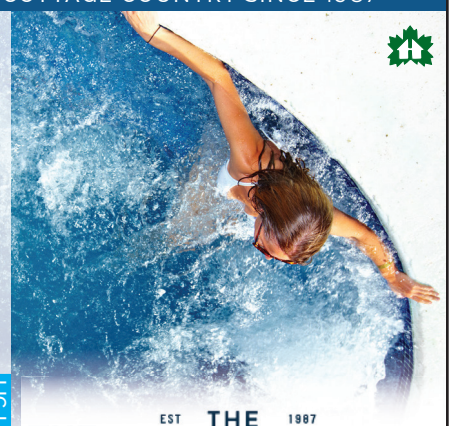

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

SUMMER NIGHTS
From wine tasting in the afternoon to concerts at night, new event delights

REGATTAS AND FUN DAYS
Lake associations duck the rain and celebrate summer all weekend long

WILDERNESS SOS
Group helps train people how to perform rescue missions in remote locations

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY
www.haliburtonecho.ca
Vol. 125 No. 32 $1.25 INCL. GST
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2008

Liberal ready for a fight

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

It's time for Canadians to decide the future of this country, says the riding's Liberal candidate.

Marlene White says she and her party are ready and willing to wage a fight for people's votes in a federal election.

"With the Green Shift plan this would be a wonderful time for us to go to the polls," she said during a visit to Haliburton on Thursday. "People need to talk about this plan and its impact on our country and our planet. We need a Liberal government to be elected and in power to put these policies in place.

"I'm passionate about our country. I'm not happy with the way it's drifting and there needs to be some change."

She says it was right to wait for the country to get to know her leader, Stéphane Dion, before challenging the minority Conservative government. He was not the party's leader in the last federal election in January of 2006. "We needed some time to get to know Stéphane Dion and all of his positive qualities and see what he's keen about and his vision for Canada."

Both Dion and Prime Minister Stephen Harper are making noises about prompting an election.

See **Liberals** *page 20*

MATT JAMES/Echo

Sweet, sweet madness

Sydney Cameron, 10, of Haliburton loves her cotton candy and the *Echo's* Midnight Madness event on Friday, August 1 couldn't have gone any better. The *Echo's* general manager David Zilstra said this year's event marked the 20th anniversary. For more fun photos see page 3 and visit the photo gallery at www.haliburtonecho.ca.

Passport panic may be avoided

GREG HOEKSTRA
Staff Reporter

A record number of Canadians are expected to apply for passports over the next year in anticipation of stricter requirements to enter the U.S., but local MP Barry Devolin says his constituents shouldn't panic just yet.

As is stands now, anyone hoping to enter the U.S. by land or water will need a passport as of June 1, 2009, which could result in a surge of as many as 5.2 million passport applications by next April, the Canadian Press reported recently.

But in an interview with the *Echo* last week, Devolin said his government is now looking for alternatives that could help Canada circumvent the looming deadline and avoid huge backlogs at Passport Canada.

"What we're hoping is that we can come up with an alternative before June 2009, and that's what the government of Canada is working on," said Devolin. "People shouldn't need a passport if they're just looking to drive to Buffalo for some chicken wings."

Instead, Devolin said the government is looking at smart enhanced drivers' licences that could streamline border crossings between the neighbouring countries without the need for an $87 passport. A pilot project in already being tested in British Columbia and Washington state.

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